

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A nanocarbon production apparatus comprising:
 - a light source for irradiating a surface of a graphite target with light;
 - a surface processing unit for flattening the surface of said graphite target after irradiation with light; and
 - a collecting unit for collecting carbon vapor evaporated from the graphite target by irradiation with light, as nanocarbon;wherein the graphite target is a graphite rod or a graphite plate.
2. (Previously presented) A nanocarbon production apparatus comprising:
 - a target holding unit that holds a graphite rod and rotates said graphite rod around a central axis;
 - a light source for irradiating a surface of said graphite rod with light;
 - a surface processing unit for flattening the surface of said graphite rod after irradiation with light; and
 - a collecting unit for collecting carbon vapor evaporated from said graphite rod by irradiation with light, as nanocarbon.
3. (Currently amended) A nanocarbon production apparatus comprising:
 - a target holding unit that holds a graphite plate having first and second opposing surfaces and rotates said graphite plate by 180 degrees so as to reverse to reverse the upper and lower orientation of said surfaces relative to one another in a normal line direction of a surface;
 - a light source for irradiating a surface of said graphite plate in one of said upper and lower orientations with light;

a surface processing unit for flattening the surface of said graphite plate irradiated with light; and

a collecting unit for collecting carbon vapor evaporated from said graphite plate by irradiation with light, as nanocarbon.

4. (Previously Presented) The nanocarbon production apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising movement unit that moves a relative position of said graphite target relative to said light source.

5. (Previously Presented) The nanocarbon production apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said surface processing unit removes a part of the surface of said graphite target at a position different from the irradiation position of said light.

6. (Original) The nanocarbon production apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising dust collecting unit for collecting dust of said graphite target generated in said surface processing unit.

7. (Previously Presented) The nanocarbon production apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said nanocarbon is carbon nanohorn aggregates.

8. (Previously presented) A nanocarbon production method comprising:
irradiating a surface of a graphite target with light, and collecting carbon vapor evaporated from said graphite target as nanocarbon, and flattening the surface of said graphite target after said surface of said graphite target is irradiated with light; and
irradiating said surface that is flattened with light again and collecting carbon vapor evaporated from said graphite target as nanocarbon;
wherein said graphite target is a graphite rod or a graphite plate.

9. (Previously presented) A nanocarbon production method comprising:

irradiating a surface of a graphite rod with light while rotating said graphite rod around a central axis, collecting carbon vapor evaporated from said graphite rod as nanocarbon, and flattening the surface of said graphite rod after the surface of said graphite rod is irradiated with light; and

irradiating said surface that is flattened with light again while rotating said graphite rod around the central axis, and collecting carbon vapor evaporated from said graphite rod as nanocarbon.

10. (Currently amended) A nanocarbon production method comprising:

light irradiating ~~[[a]] one of two opposing surfaces~~ of a graphite plate ~~with light~~ and collecting carbon vapor evaporated from said graphite plate as nanocarbon;

rotating said graphite plate by 180 degrees ~~in a normal line direction of~~ so as to reverse the orientation of said surfaces of said graphite plate after said surface of said graphite plate is irradiated with light;

flattening said surface of said graphite plate irradiated with light after said rotation ~~graphite plate~~; and

irradiating said flattened surface with light again and collecting carbon vapor evaporated from said graphite plate as nanocarbon.

11. (Currently amended) The nanocarbon production method according to claim 8, wherein ~~irradiation with light is carried out while moving an irradiation position of light in~~ said irradiating the surface of the graphite target with light and ~~[[in]] said irradiating the graphite target surface with light again~~ is carried out while moving the position of the irradiation light on said surface.

12. (Previously presented) The nanocarbon production method according to claim 8, wherein said flattening the surface of said graphite target irradiated with light comprises removing a part of the surface of said graphite target.

13. (Previously Presented) The nanocarbon production method according to claim 8, wherein said irradiating the surface of said graphite target with light comprises irradiating with a laser beam.

14. (Previously Presented) The nanocarbon production method according to claim 8, wherein said collecting the nanocarbon comprises collecting carbon nanohorn aggregates.